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THE NEW MUTANTS®

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

BUT, MAGNETO, WE DON'T *NEED* TO WORK OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM TODAY!

SEE, SIR, WE *HAVE* CONTROL OF OUR MUTANT POWERS!

RAHNE'S RIGHT. JUST ASK ME TO SAY SOMETHING IN *ANY* LANGUAGE!

LOOK, SIR, ALL'A US'RE KIND'A DEPRESSED, WHAT WITH AMARA LEAVIN' AN' ALL.

WE DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE WORKIN' OUT!

AND ON TOP OF THAT *MIDTERMS* ARE COMING UP!

LOOK AT ALL THE *STUDYING* WE'VE GOTTA DO!

NICE TRY, ILLYANA! YOU'RE BECOMING A FIRST CLASS *TELEPORTER!* BUT THAT HEALTHY MIND BELONGS IN A WELL-HONED BODY!

DANI, LET'S HAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF *YOUR* POWER!

PROJECT AN IMAGE OF THE THING I WANT MOST!

US IN THE *DANGER ROOM?*

RIGHT! SO HOP TO IT!

WHO LEFT ONE OF THE *ENVIRONMENTS* RUNNING?

IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE, I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES...

...SWITCH THE ENVIRONMENTS OFF WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH THEM! THE POWER THEY USE--

CLICK!

THE NEW MUTANTS ® **Vol. 1, No. 57, November, 1987.** (ISSN #0747-4601) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE NEW MUTANTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.**

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

SQUAWK?

SQUAWK FFK!

SQUAWK AWK!

THE ENVIRONMENT--? IT *IS* OFF!

SO WHAT THE HECK IS *THAT?*

NOW WE'RE GONNA CATCH IT!

SMACK!

CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER | *BRET BLEVINS* PENCILER | *TERRY AUSTIN* INKER | *TOM ORZECHOWSKI,* LETTERER *GLYNIS OLIVER,* COLORIST | *ANN NOCENTI* EDITOR | *TOM DEFALCO* EDITOR IN CHIEF

Oh, NO!

WHAT IF HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT GLASS? HE'LL *HURT* HIMSELF!

ILLYANA! 'PORT US DOWN THERE -- *PRONTO!*

AH'LL HEAD HIM OFF! DANI, TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WANTS-- HOW TO CALM HIM DOWN!

WHAT HE WANTED YESTERDAY! *FOOD!*

HOLY COW! THAT DUDE IS *FAST! TURNS* FAST, TOO!

FASTER'N *ME!*

CRA

K!

SAM! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*

SURE! NUTHIN' CAN HURT ME WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'!

AH'M JUST SCARED *HE'S* GONNA BE HURT!

HE'S DIVING FOR DANI'S MIRAGE! PERHAPS I CAN TALK TO HIM!

BIRD BOY, *CALM DOWN!* LAND! TRY SOME OF THAT DELICIOUS FOOD AHEAD THAT--

HE FLEW RIGHT THROUGH IT! HE DIDN'T EVEN SLOW DOWN! HE *KNOWS* IT ISN'T REAL!

HE'S TOO SMART FOR THAT! WE NEED REAL FOOD!

REAL FOOD! COMING RIGHT...

...*UP!*

HERE, BIRD BOY! *PIG OUT!*

SKIP! SKIP!

THE POOR THING! HE WAS *STARVED!* I'VE HEARD BIRDS HAVE AN INCREDIBLY FAST METABOLISM!

AND ISN'T HE SMART!

SMART?

MOST *PEOPLE* WOULD BE STOPPED BY AN ILLUSION LIKE THAT, BUT NOT OUR *BIRD BOY!*

HE WON'T STOP TILL HE GETS THE REAL THING!

KLACK! CLINK!

LET ME HELP YOU! LOOK! IT *UNSCREWS!* SEE?

KLES

DID YOU *SEE* THAT? HE *IS* SMART! AND HE'S SO *BEAUTIFUL!*

I JUST WISH WE COULD *TALK* TO HIM! DOUG, DECIPHERING LANGUAGES IS *YOUR* POWER!

CAN'T YOU TELL WHAT HE'S *SAYING?*

SAYING? WHY WOULD I EVEN *WANT* TO KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING?

HA! ALL HE DOES IS *SQUAWK!*

WOULD SOMEONE MIND TELLING ME JUST *WHAT* IS GOING ON?

SOON...

HE'S THE BIRD BOY WHO ESCAPED IN NEW YORK, SIR! ACTUALLY SAM *HELPED* HIM ESCAPE... ACCIDENTALLY!

WE *RESCUED* HIM! WE BROUGHT HIM HOME!

WE THINK HE'S A *MUTANT!* CAN YOU TEST HIM ON *CEREBRO* TO FIND OUT?

CAN WE *KEEP* HIM?

CEREBRO WAS SMASHED,* BUT I'VE MANAGED TO GET THE ANALYZER WORKING!

BEFORE WE DECIDE, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT HE *IS*.

* IN X-MEN #213. -- Ann.

HE'S NOT *HUMAN*, THAT'S FOR SURE! OR NOT *ENTIRELY* HUMAN! MAYBE HE *IS* A MUTANT!

HE REGISTERS AS AN ANOMALY OF *SOME* KIND, BUT, QUITE FRANKLY, CEREBRO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO CLASSIFY HIM!

HE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING ENTIRELY *DIFFERENT!*

GO *ON!* GET BACK TO YOUR *STUDIES!*

HEY, RAHNE, WANT ME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR *PROGRAMMING?*

NOT NOW, DOUG!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

I'LL TAKE THE BIRD BOY BACK TO THE DANGER ROOM AND MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE THERE!

BUT SOON...

HEY, DANI, DID YOU GET #3?

NO. THAT'S A HARD ONE AND TRIG'S NOT MY STRONG SUIT! I'LL PROBABLY FLUNK THE MIDTERMS!

I DON'T *BLAME* AMARA FOR DECIDING TO LEAVE XAVIER'S AND GO TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!

IT'S ALL A PLOY TO GET OUT OF *MIDTERMS!*

IT'S ALL A PLOY TO GET WHERE THERE'S MORE *BOYS!*

HEY, RAHNE! WHAT'S UP?

HE GETS LONELY AND *SCARED* WHEN HE'S ALONE.

WHEREVER HE'S FROM, I THINK THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND!

PEOPLE, *HA!*

OVER THERE, BIRD BOY! SIT THERE...

Oh, WELL!

I GUESS HE HAS LIGHT BONES LIKE A BIRD, OR HE'D TIP THE SCREEN OVER!

TIK TOK TIK TOK

JUST BEHAVE... OKAY? I GOTTA DO SOME ALGEBRA!

NO! NO! BAD!

HE'S TRYING TO EAT THE CHARACTERS ON THE SCREEN!

PROBABLY THINKS THEY'RE *BUGS!*

DOUG, *TALK* TO HIM! THOSE SQUAWKS HE MAKES--THEY'RE SOME KIND OF LANGUAGE, I'M SURE OF IT!

JUST TRY!

WHY *BOTHER?* YOU *HEARD* WHAT MAGNETO SAID! HE'S NOT *HUMAN!*

I KNOW! HE'S A *MUTANT!*

THEN HE'S NOT A MUTANT *HUMAN!* HE'S SOME WEIRD MUTANT *BIRD!* HE'S A STUPID *BIRD-BRAIN!*

HE IS *NOT!*

HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING WE SAY, DON'T YOU, FELLA?

AND IF HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A *COMPUTER* IS, WELL, I'M NOT SURE *I* DO EITHER!

OR *ELECTRICITY!* OR *ATOMIC FISSION,* FOR THAT MATTER!

YOU'RE *HUNGRY,* AREN'T YOU? COME ON, BIRD BOY! LET'S GET SOME *LUNCH!*

HA! THE ONLY THING HE *UNDER-STANDS* IS *FOOD!*

GULP

WHAT'S *WITH* YOU, DOUG? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO PASS UP THE CHANCE TO DECIPHER A *LANGUAGE!*

YOU WOULDN'T, BY ANY CHANCE, BE *JEALOUS* OF OLE BIRD-BRAIN, WOULD YOU?

JEALOUS, *ME?* *HA!* WHAT HAVE *I* GOT TO BE JEALOUS OF?

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

MY FATHER TOLD ME TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN CIVILIZATION, MAGNETO!

I HAVE LEARNED FROM XAVIER'S SCHOOL AND THE *NEW MUTANTS!* NOW I WANT TO LEARN FROM THE *HELLIONS!*

IT *IS* MY DUTY TO EXPERIENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

IT ISN'T ANYTHING *PERSONAL!* DO YOU *UNDERSTAND?*

LILA

DON'T YOU?

OF *COURSE* WE UNDERSTAND!

WE JUST WISH WE COULD TALK YOU *OUTTA* IT!

IT'S YOUR LIFE, AMARA!

BE SURE AN' WRITE! WE'LL *MISS* YOU!

MISS FROST...?

WE'LL BE LEAVING IN A MOMENT, AMARA! MAGNUS, DON'T LOOK SO *GLUM!*

AMARA IS BETTER SUITED TO MY SCHOOL'S MORE ELEGANT ENVIRONMENT THAN YOURS...

... AS SOME OF MY OWN STUDENTS MAY BE BETTER SUITED TO XAVIER'S MORE... *PRIMITIVE* APPROACH!

PERHAPS, IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL ACCEPT SOME OF *MY* STUDENTS AS TRANSFERS!

AFTER ALL, YOU *ARE* THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S WHITE KING AS I AM THEIR WHITE QUEEN! WE ARE NO LONGER RIVALS!

NOT *RIVALS!* IS SHE *DAFT?*

NO *KIDDING!* SCORE ONE FOR THE *BAD* GUYS!

MAYBE SOME DAY AMARA WILL BE BACK!

SHE NEVER SEEMED QUITE *HAPPY* WITH US, ANYWAY!

DON'T BET ON IT!

HELLIONS, *HERE?*

YUCK!

BUT IF WE *DO* GET ANY TRANSFER-HELLIONS, I ONLY HOPE THEY'RE BOYS!

I HOPE YOU KIDS WON'T LET THIS... EPISODE GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR *STUDIES!*

YOU HAVE *MIDTERMS* COMING UP SOON!

NO, SIR!

YES, SIR!

HE'S DEPRESSED!

ME, TOO! SO... WE NEED TO *CHEER OURSELVES UP!*

WHAT SAY WE TAKE IN *BURGERS* AND A *MOVIE* AT THE MALL!

BUT, WE'VE GOT *MIDTERMS!* AND WE'VE HARDLY *STUDIED*, WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY.

WE HAD TO RESCUE OLD *BIRD-BRAIN*, DIDN'T WE?

WHY IS IT THE HELLIONS ALWAYS GET THE LAST LAUGH?

YEAH, THEY GOT *AMARA!* WE GOT *BIRD-BRAIN!*

WHERE *IS* HE ANYWAY?

I LEFT HIM IN THE *DANGER ROOM* WITH HIS ENVIRON-MENT RUNNING!

HEY, *BIRD-BRAIN!*

HE'S NOT THERE! *HE'S GONE!* WHERE CAN HE BE?

SQUAWK-KA-KA-HA-HA!

Oh, YOU GREAT SILLY! YOU PLAYED A *JOKE* ON US!

SEE, HE *IS* HUMAN!

FUNNY JOKE.

BUT... WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM WHILE WE'RE AT THE *MOVIES?*

WHY NOT TAKE HIM *WITH* US? IF HE'S SO *HUMAN*, LET HIM *PROVE* IT!

BESIDES, HE MIGHT *LIKE* GOING TO THE MOVIES!

SOON...

I THINK WE CAN MAYBE PUT ONE OF OUR XAVIER'S SWEATERS ON HIM *BACK-WARDS...*

Uh... THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK, GUYS!

HEY, WE GOTTA GIVE THE GUY A CHANCE... DON'T WE?

BIRD-BRAIN AT THE MOVIES! I CAN'T WAIT!

NEITHER CAN I!

LOOK, I FOUND THE BEAST'S OLD SHOES! HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STUDENTS HERE!

AN' IF OLE BIRD-BRAIN SCREWS UP *TOO* BAD, *WE* MAY BE THE LAST!

GLOVES'LL COVER HIS HANDS!

SQWAWK!

THE TRENCH COAT OUGHTA HIDE HIS *WINGS*, THOUGH!

SQWURK?

HE'S READY! NOW WHAT ABOUT *US?*

PERFECT! AND LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN MY ROOM, BIRD-BRAIN!

SUN GLASSES!

HE IS *SO COOL!*

ILLYANA-- 'PORT US TO THE *MALL!*

NOBODY AROUND! *MALT SHOPPE'S* TO THE LEFT! C'MON OUT! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

NO EXIT

CAN'T YOU KEEP HIM FROM WALKING SO FUNNY? PEOPLE'LL NOTICE!

HE CAN'T *HELP* IT, DOUG! HE'S NEVER WORN *SHOES* BEFORE!

OR ANYTHING ELSE, I'LL BET!

JEAN ST

JUICE!

HEY, LOOK! THE BOOTH IN THE BACK IS OPEN!

SWELL! MOVE IT! FOLKS'RE STARIN'!

WELCOME TO GOO-GAM GANG FAMILY RESTAURANT

SUNKIST

SHOVE HIM IN BESIDE ME!

IF HIS BACK'S TO THE LOCAL KIDS, THEY CAN'T STUDY HIM SO CLOSE!

SAM, SIT ON THE OTHER SIDE! IF HE DOES ANYTHING HORRIBLE-- *GRAB* HIM!

SO... WHAT'LL IT *BE?*

PAT

INTERMINABLE MINUTES LATER...

HERE YA ARE! NINE *BURGERS*, SIX *SHAKES*, SIX LARGE FRIES!

SAM! GRAB HIM!

*CALM DOWN, GUY! WE ORDERED ENOUGH FOR *EVERYBODY*!*

HEY, BIRD-BRAIN, TRY *CHEWIN'* 'FORE YA SWALLOW, WHY DON'CHA?

GOO

YOU FINISHED YOURS SO FAST THAT--

HEY! GIMME THAT!

THAT'S MY BURGER!

SNATCH!

PLUCK!

GRAB!

NAUGHTY! THAT WAS *DOUG'S!* YOU MUSTN'T BE SO GREEDY, BIRD-BRAIN! YOU MUST LEARN TO SHARE!

HE *DID* SHARE! HE SHARED *DOUG'S!*

HERE, BIRD-BRAIN! THIS IS YOUR *SHAKE! CHOCOLATE! YUMMM!*

?

NO, GUY! YOU DON'T *LICK* IT! YOU *DRINK* IT! THROUGH THE *STRAW!* LIKE *THIS!*

SLURP!

SLURP

GULP!

GOOD, ISN'T IT? BET YOU WISH YOU HAD *ANOTHER* ONE, DON'T YOU?

SQUAWK- Ahhh!

YOU *KNEW* HE'D DO THAT, ILLYANA!

WATCH IT, DOUG, HE'S AFTER *YOURS* AGAIN!

NO WAY!

BUMP!

SPLOOSH!

OOCH, DOUG! WATCH OUT!

SQUAWK- AWRK!

SPLASH!

Oh, NO!

BONK!

HEY, *CHILL OUT*, FELLA!

REASONING WITH HIM'S NO GOOD! *GRAB* HIM, DARN IT!

HE THINKS DOUG'S HURTING RAHNE!

CRASH!

WHAT THE HECK--?

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SHAPE UP, ILLYANA! HELP US GET HIM OUTTA HERE!

LOOKS LIKE A FOOD FIGHT!

VERY FUNNY! YOU WANTED THAT TO HAPPEN!

NEVER... NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS...

HA! HA! HA! HA!

YES, I'M MAD! THIS WAS YOUR IDEA!

Oh... IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

MY IDEA?! THAT MONSTER--

HE THOUGHT YOU HURT ME!

YOU SAID HE WAS HUMAN!

Ah... uh... GUESS WE'RE READY TA LEAVE! HOW MUCH D'WE OWE YA?

!?!

WHAT IS HE?

WHERE'S HE FROM?

LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT FEATHERS!

LOOKS LIKE THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!

THOSE KIDS FROM THE MALT SHOPPE! THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!

WHO CAN BLAME THEM!

HEY, LISTEN, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHO... WHAT... *IS* HE, ANYWAY?

HE'S GOING TO A *COSTUME PARTY!*

HE'S A FAMOUS *ROCK STAR!* HE'S *INCOGNITO!*

HE ISN'T *FROM* HERE! IT'S THE NEWEST STYLE... IN... *uh... PARIS!*

HE WAS IN AN *ACCIDENT!*

HE'S A *WALKING* ACCIDENT!

HEY-- WHAT ABOUT THE *MOVIE?*

ARE YOU *NUTS?* WE CAN'T TAKE *PRINCE CHARMING* HERE TO A *MOVIE!?*

THEY'RE STILL *FOLLOWING* US!

NO... I MEAN WE'LL DUCK IN WHERE IT'S DARK AND THEY CAN'T SEE US AND ILLYANA CAN *TELE-PORT* US HOME!

FINALLY, A *GOOD* IDEA!

ONLY *YOU* GOTTA PAY FOR THE TICKETS!

AFTER THAT DEBACLE BACK THERE, *AH'M* FLAT BROKE!

HEY, WE'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER! HONEST!

AK

SIX TICKETS TO *HOUSE II!* AND *HURRY!*

AND PRACTICALLY HOME FREE!

HOW MUCH *MORE* TROUBLE CAN HE GET INTO?

... AND AFTER THE MOVIE-- TRY McBURGERS!

SQUAWK-eep?

AWRIGHT, ILLYANA, NOBODY CAN SEE!

'PORT US HOME-- FAST! BEFORE--

SQUAWK-AAAAH!

RIPP!!!

Oh, NO!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

WE GOTTA STOP HIM! SAM, CAN YOU CATCH HIM?

I DUNNO!

BUT AH GUESS AH BETTER TRY!

'LEAST NOW, HE'S GOT CLOTHES SLOWIN' 'IM DOWN!

Oh, DANI, I'M SO SORRY! THEY'LL FIND OUT WE'RE MUTANTS!

THEY'LL COME AFTER US WITH... WITH PITCHFORKS OR SOMETHING! Oh, DANI, WHAT'LL WE DO?

Uh... um...

HEY, WOW! IT'S A SNEAK PREVIEW! THAT NEW 3-D MOVIE!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S REAL, DOESN'T IT? WOW!

MAN, IT IS REAL!

NICE GOING, DANI!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY 3-D I EVER SAW!

IT'S BETTER! JUST LIKE I ALWAYS IMAGINED!

WOW! THE DETAIL! MAGNIFICENT!

OW! WHERE'D THAT SHOE COME FROM? WHO'S THROWIN' SHOES?

HEY! GET HIM, COMET MAN! WA-HOOO!

GOTCHA!

SQUAWK-AWKKK!

BIRD-BRAIN! NAUGHTY! HOLD STILL!

THUD.

DOUG, CAN'T YOU JUST *TRY* AND TALK TO HIM?

HE'S WIGGLIN' LIKE A GREASED *PIG* AN' YOU WANNA *TALK*?

THEY'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THAT 3-D JUNK MUCH LONGER, DANI!

ILLYANA-- GET THE HECK UP HERE AND GET US--

--HOME!

Uh oh!

I'VE HAD A VERY DISTURBING *TELEPHONE CALL* FROM THE OWNER OF THE *MALT SHOPPE!*

IT SEEMS THAT MY STUDENTS-- ONE STUDENT IN *PARTICULAR*-- DESTROYED A PORTION OF HIS ESTABLISHMENT!

AND, LOGICALLY ENOUGH, I CAME *HERE*-- TO THE DANGER ROOM--TO LOOK IN ON BIRD-BRAIN...

...JUST TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT WHAT I WAS TOLD COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE!

WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING? YOU'VE BEHAVED VERY IRRESPONSIBLY...

...AND THAT *BIRD* CREATURE IS OBVIOUSLY UNMANAGEABLE AND A BAD INFLUENCE!

WE WILL TURN HIM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES! *AT ONCE!*

SLAM!

HOW... HOW CAN WE *DO* THAT? HE'S *HUMAN!* HE *IS!* HE JUST DOESN'T *UNDERSTAND!*

WE DON'T KNOW HOW HE WAS RAISED OR ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!

HE PLAYED A *JOKE* ON US! HE TRIED TO *PROTECT* ME WHEN HE THOUGHT I WAS HURT!

HE'S JUST *HUNGRY* ALL THE TIME, *THAT'S* ALL!

WE *CAN'T* JUST SEND HIM BACK TO A CAGE! WE JUST *CAN'T!*

IF ONLY WE COULD T-T-*TALK* TO HIM!

LOOK, IT'S NOT MY *FAULT!*

HE'S NOT *HUMAN!*

HE'S *NOT!* HE'S A GIANT BIRD WITH ARMS!

NOTHING *HUMAN* WOULD BEHAVE LIKE THAT AT A *MOVIE THEATER!*

MAGNETO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT *THAT* ONE YET!

SO *WHAT* IF BIRD BRAIN LEAVES! WHO WOULD *CARE?*

LOOK, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIM! OR MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND ME!

I'VE TRIED... REALLY...

...oh HECK, I *HAVEN'T* TRIED! I...

SQUAWK! Squeek! SQUAWK?

NOTHING! SEE?

squeek...

AWK?

Oh-- WOW!

SQUAWK SQUEEK! SQUEEK- AWK! SQUAWK AWK SQUAWK!

SQUAWK-AWK! SQUAWK!

HEY, LISTEN YOU GUYS! I APOLOGIZED FOR NOT TALKIN' TO HIM BEFORE AND HE'S NOT MAD AT ME!

HE UNDER-STOOD... I *THINK!*

HE SAYS PEOPLE *MADE* HIM! AND TRAINED HIM BY *STARVING* HIM!

"GOOD" TO HIM MEANS *"FOOD"* AND "BAD" IS *"NO FOOD!"*

SO WHEN HE SAW ALL THAT FOOD AT THE *MALT SHOPPE*, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FOR *HIM*, 'CAUSE HE'D BEEN SO GOOD!

AT LEAST I *THINK* THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT! HIS LANGUAGE REALLY *IS* HARD... EVEN *I* DON'T HAVE MUCH OF IT DOWN YET!

ANYWAY, THAT *MOVIE SCREEN* MUSTA SEEMED LIKE THE *ULTIMATE REWARD!*

LISTEN, RAHNE, I'M HAPPY YOU GUYS MADE ME TALK TO HIM... EVEN IF IT *DOES* MEAN YOU LIKE BIRD-BRAIN MORE THAN ME!

WHAT--? Oh, DOUG, ARE YOU *DAFT?*

NO! NO YOU'RE *NOT* DAFT! YOU'RE *WONDERFUL!* Oh, DOUG, YOU *DID* IT!

YOU *TALKED* TO HIM! YOU *SAVED* HIM!

Oh, DANI, *DO* TELL MAGNETO! HURRY! NOW HE *HAS* TO STAY WITH US!

AND YOU AND ME, DOUG... WE CAN *TEACH* HIM! AND MAYBE WE CAN EVEN FIND OUT WHERE HE *CAME* FROM!

Oh, ISN'T IT *LOVELY*, DANI AND ILLYANA? HE'S JUST WHAT YOU *WANTED* TO JOIN THE NEW MUTANTS!

HE'S A *BOY!*

NEXT ISSUE:

WHERE DID HE *COME* FROM? WHO MADE HIM-- AND *WHY?*

A BIRD IN THE HAND!

FOR BETTER OR WORSE-- *BIRD-BRAIN* JOINS THE *NEW MUTANTS!*

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Petey, Pig 'o My Heart! Marry me! Hug me! Squeeze me the way a fashion-conscious water buffalo should be squeezed!"

—MARY JANE WATER BUFFALO
MARVEL TALES #208

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH!

After guiding Marvel Comics to dazzling new creative heights for the past nine and a half years, *Jim Shooter* has stepped down from his position as the Editor in Chief. Unquestionably one of the most talented creative people in the entire comic book industry, Jim was always spearheading the development of new formats, new concepts and exciting new comic book series! (Like The 'Nam! X-Factor! Power Pack! The Punisher! New Mutants! And others!)

Marvel produced its very first Graphic Novels, Limited Series and "Direct-Only" comics under his superb editorial leadership. His accomplishments are too numerous to list here. Suffice it to say that he will be missed.

THE NEW ORDER BEGINS . . .

Our new Editor in Chief is none other than *Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco* . . . A man who needs no introduction to Marveldom Assembled! (But who will be real miffed if he doesn't get one!)

The subject of one of our Bullpen *Pro Files* a few months back, Tom is a fifteen-year veteran in the comics biz. Since he joined Marvel in 1980, he served as the editor of our *Spider-Man* line of comics and later as the writer of such popular series as *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Machine Man* and *Firestar*. As our Executive Editor, he also helped establish Marvel's *Star Comics* line.

We're sure you join with us in wishing Tom the best of luck in his new job!

Pro File on: MARK GRUENWALD

Editor on: *AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, IRON MAN, OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Deluxe and Trade Paperback Editions*
Marvel freelance credits (past): *Scripts: SPIDER-WOMAN, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, THOR, BIZARRE ADVENTURES, HAWKEYE Limited Series, SQUADRON SUPREME Limited Series*
Marvel freelance credits (present): *Scripts: CAPTAIN AMERICA, D.P. 7*
My place of birth is: *Oshkosh, Wisconsin*
My hobbies are: *Playing with my daughter Sara's toys, amassing a videotape library, and doing "butt-dives" into inner tubes at Ralph Macchio's pool*
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: *Edward James Olmos*
The single work which I am most proud of is: *SQUADRON SUPREME #2*
My oddest habit is: *I'm a neatness freak and I constantly force the people who work with me to clean up their clutter.*
The reason I got into comics was: *So I could write stories as good as the ones that got me hooked on the medium when I was a kid.*
People who knew me in High School thought I was: *Going to go far, preferably as far away from them as possible.*
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: *Winning the Cresskill, New Jersey Butt-Diving Championship for the past two years*
My favorite performers are: *Talking Heads, the Three Stooges, and Shintaro Katsu*
The last good book I read was: *THE DISCOVERERS by Daniel J. Boostrum*
The last good movie I saw was: *RAISING ARIZONA*
The biggest influences on my work include: *Stan Lee, Gardner Fox, and Philip K. Dick*
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To write CAPTAIN AMERICA forever.*
The worst part of my job is: *Saying goodbye to my daughter every morning.*
When nobody's looking I like to: *Rearrange my office.*
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *I'm the hardest working editor in the business today.*

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #248** — Turning point!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #57**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #32** — Continuing the six-part epic that runs through *all three Spider-titles!* Part Four begins here, courtesy of J.M. DeMATTEIS, MIKE ZECK and BOB McLEOD!!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #26**
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #12** — The citizens of earth believe that the Strikeforce has turned traitor!
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #43**
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The Fall of the Mutants

Syl3nt Bob